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A PLEDGE COMIC TO PARENTS

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the Mansion House peech at ien o'clock. It was now quarter of eleven, and warry was beginning to ras at me, for the old-timer proded litmadi on his punctuality. I was on the verge of miking linquirios at the Mansion House deak when I saw him coming up the

House deak when I saw him coming up the street.

Hed II not been for his characteristic quit, I would not have recognized him at first qlance. He was, as he would put it, "ducied up" in black trousees, white shirt with black string us, frock cost and high-cownoid high-

He looked like an 1865 tintype come to his.

Before accending the hotel steps, he framed for a deep breath. He face was more solemn than 1 had ever men it, but the solemnity faded when he cought sight of me. "Howely, Mr. Wilson." he emiled, moving a little wearily across the porch to testle in his tweetier minich bottomed chin. "Servy in his favorite rainbi-bottomed chin." "Servy in

"Thet's okey," I assured him, "now that I know you're not till."

He sighed, took off the high-crowned hat, and mouned his perspiring bow with a ban-

dazza, the vivid red of which contrated startlingly with his somber garb. "H I was to get sick now, doggoned if Pd know what to do about it."

to get sick new, doggoned if Pd know what to do about it."
"What everybody else does — call your doctor," I grimsed.
For a long moment he was silent, staring

off at the mountains. Re-close that the kinds hard to do." His voice was leved with lorell-ness. "Seein' as how I just came from his funeral and the readin' o' his will."

There was nothing I could say, I could not form the country of the the works have the wind of the the workship in the winds.

Either the cld-timer did not notice my emburnassment or he decided to ignore it, because he went on telking. And, now, his voice was warmer, as if telking of his friend

lessened his lonelines.
"Twas close to fifty years ago when Doc
Elmore opened up his office been." he began. "He was a geath act o' hombre, spatin'
o' words. Never said much about ha past, but
that warn's unusual out here, in those days.
He knew his doctori." That's all folks cared

about.

"Wal,"him an' me hit it oil from the start—both in a friendly way an' in business." At my surprised look, he added hastly. "I was a deppty sheriff then, an' this town was about as wickent as any outside o' Tombstones. So there was a powerful lot o' quarilay.

Savry?"
I nodded, "You arrested the culprits and Doc took care of the victims."
"Right," A smile, more reminiscent than

"Right." A smale, more reminiscent man mirithful glimmered in the fields blue eyes helmed the rimless speciacles. "Sometimes, Doc had to petch up the guilty once, too so's the law could give 'em their just des-

seria." He gestured significantly toward his neck and, apparently, was reminded of the unaccustomed its, because he loosened it before confining:

"After a couple years, the lown north

"After a couple years, the town north actined down. The first church was built, and the whool, too.

"Doe took a real shine to the schoolteacher, Alvana Bentley, an' I didn't blame him. She was a fine figger of a woman an' carried herself like she had a ramod for a spine. Her standards for livin' were us straight as her back. An' alore alw'd even go to prayer meetin' with Doc, also mode sure he water's a cardphyte', carousin' man." The old-timer chuckled. "Becken if she'd o' known him an' me played checkers most every Friday night, als'd o' had consiptions:

every Fidday night, abe'd o' had comignions.
"Wal, when Doc an' Alvina had been leepe in' comp'ny about six mouths, an hombre named 'Ennase' Kirby stared sistin' cole hereabouts. Him an' his sidokitik — a no good zamed 'Birese' — were kinda dever in a ne-tantous nori o' way. Their black manks revered swery scrimptine o' their faces, an nidiber of 'em ever and more'n was necessers. Meanly, how hat thair sixerums do the

seey. Noestly, they set that anteques do tree talkin's for ern. An, is live mo, those shoot in stone weeked overtime.

"O' course, folks got up in arms about all the robbin' an' aboots' an' read me en' the abouts' a regist rote at the st all we could do was ride out with a posse, after each locking, an' tree to ride 'en' down. Wen't no

the absulf a regiter is to set. But all we could do was ride out with a poses, after each boldup, and 'my to ride 'en down. Warn't no other way of nabbin' 'em, 'cause we dish' have the ghost of an idee bow they looked.

"One evenin' — 'tween poses rides — I am into Do te high to front of that light rest." The old-lines pointed to a giant syramore absolute the prices and the process. The

was beamin' from ear to ear. Miss Alvina'd promised to wad him two weeks from the followin' Sattday.

"'An' you're standin' up with me,' be de-

clared.

"I was plumb beneed, so I said I'd he

pick that particlar night for another holdup." The old-timer peused to take out his coracob pipe but instead of lighting it, put it hock in his pocket.

I was impaliest for the story's climax.

I was impedent for the story's climax, which I knew was nearing. "And did they?" I could not help but atk. The old-timer shook his beed. "They picked

the very next Settliday night. An' they picked on the The Lest Bonarias Salton — right bere in town. They pailled of the plot shick as a whittle, without fitto' a single shot. Dut, as they bested unto the street, with that beads intil o' gold and guns, Dec as' me cursulating — amost into the light streetmin' out from the window o' The Lest Bonarias.

"The rating pandit took one look at us."

an' gasped out a name that assunded socialike 'Hosea,' but I know it couldn't o' been, 'cause neither Doc nor me had a first name 'like that

Doe utitiened blee held been hit with a boil or lighten. Then, hanged it is dilicivity out of upon an down held of these outsiling out of upon and down held of these outsiling out of the second beautiful or salided to desirable, assessay. Does assessing seat-"Wal, to make a long sony about to constanted sites a memoral, "we define have which of 'one was Kuby ne' which was still the season of the season of the season of the Silvers, as we abstract "on white stays of Silvers, as we abstract "on white stays on

marken sayin' Tali Bandi' on one, an' Sheri Readi' on 'osther.

"When she heard about Doe killin' two mee, Alvina husted the engagement. An' Doe never looked at somether woman — in a romantical way. He never talked about

romanical way, he have taked about Alvian nor about the shootin, either, "Today I found out why. Twas Doc's will that told me. He left ever'thing to me. Ever'thing that's left after payin' for a tembatoms to be ex-ceeded over the tall baxeline mays. There's to be weeted on the temberate.

Times Kirby Einsee." The old-imes sighed.
"Becken that's it Mr. Wilson."
Not for me, it wam't. "You mean Doc and this bandit were abendeer?" I saked.
The old-timer shrugged. "Neither of 'em

The conditine satisfaction of the was old enough to be the other's pa. An heades, Dec's will was signed 'loseph Hoose Emore'. 'Dain't lifely snybody but close kin would o' called Doc by his middle masse."





















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